

Was this plant an RMP facility?

Yes, this plant is subject to CAA 112r requirements.

If so, did it fall under the high-risk category?

No. This plant was not classified as high risk facility based on as defined by Agency guidance.

When was the last time that EPA inspected the facility?

EPA inspected the facility in 2006 and violations were found.

Does EPA have a role in assisting the local community with the response?

Yes. EPA provides technical assistance to State regulatory agencies upon request.

If so, please describe the activities that EPA is undertaking?

The State of Texas, specifically the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality has requested technical assistance in conducting air monitoring based on EPA's expertise and assets.

Has EPA issued any public guidance on evacuations, etc. in response to the blast?

No. Local authorities determine scope and length of evacuations. The State of Texas is overseeing the response and has not requested DHS FEMA assistance. EPA is assisting TCEQ with air monitoring of the area. TCEQ and TDH is interpreting information in support of the state-lead response.

Is the local community responding under a contingency plan that EPA helped develop?

It is unknown to EPA if the small community of West, Texas, has an independent contingency plan. McLennan County has maintained an active LEPC, which includes Waco and all other communities within the county, and as an LEPC have a contingency plan that EPA has provided training and assistance with historically. The McLennan County Office of Emergency Management is responsible for developing and maintaining the McLennan County Emergency Operations Plan.

What are the chemicals of concern that may have been released?

Anhydrous ammonia

Ammonium nitrate

What are the next steps in determining the cause of the fire and explosion?

EPA does not identify the cause of the explosion. State-lead agencies along with federal investigative agencies (FBI and ATF) will determine the cause as appropriate. The cause of the explosion is still under investigation.